

# ROB 498/599: Deep Learning for Robot Perception (DeepRob)

---

Lecture 2: Image Classification; K Nearest Neighbors



<https://deeprob.org/w25/>

# Today

---

- Logistics (Office Hours, P0 starter) (5min)
- Image Classification (KNN)
  - K Nearest Neighbors - Basics (15 min)
  - K Nearest Neighbors - in-class activity (20min)
  - Hyperparameters (15min)
  - Universal Approximation (20min)
- Summary and Takeaways (5min)

# Office Hours

- See [Course Info doc](#)

	Sun 1/12	Mon 1/13	Tue 1/14	Wed 1/15	Thu 1/16	Fri 1/17	Sat 1/18	
all-day								
9am								
10am			9:30 - 12:00 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Office Hours (Sydney)			10:30 - 11:30 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Staff		
11am					11:30 - 1:00 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Office Hours			
12pm					1:00 - 3:30 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Office Hours	DeepRob Office Hours		
1pm		1:30 - 2:50 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Office Hours (Adi)		1:30 - 2:50 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Office Hours (Adi)				
2pm					1:30 - 2:50 <input type="checkbox"/> DeepRob Office Hours (Jason)			
3pm		DeepRob Office Hours						
4pm								

\*May have small changes - stay tuned

# Office Hours

---

- Specifically, this week Jan.13- Jan.17
- Monday 3:00pm-4:30pm (Prof. Du) or by appointment 3257 FRB
- Tuesday 2:00pm-3:30pm (Cale- GSI) CSRB Lounge (outside classroom)
- Tuesday 5:30-7pm (after lab) or by appointment (Sydney - IA) CSRB
- Wednesday 1:30pm (after lecture) (Adi - IA)
- Thursday 11:30am-2pm (Meha - IA) 3310 FRB
- Thursday 1pm-3:30pm (Jason - IA) 3310 FRB

Always available on Piazza

# P0 Starter

---

P0 folder:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gJKZIMKRuLmA4EsICxrREa3dujlyY9XC?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gJKZIMKRuLmA4EsICxrREa3dujlyY9XC?usp=drive_link)

Please create a “DeepRob” folder in your own Google Drive, and put P0 folder under there. This will be your individual private copy of the code - do NOT change the starter code in shared folder!

# Reminder

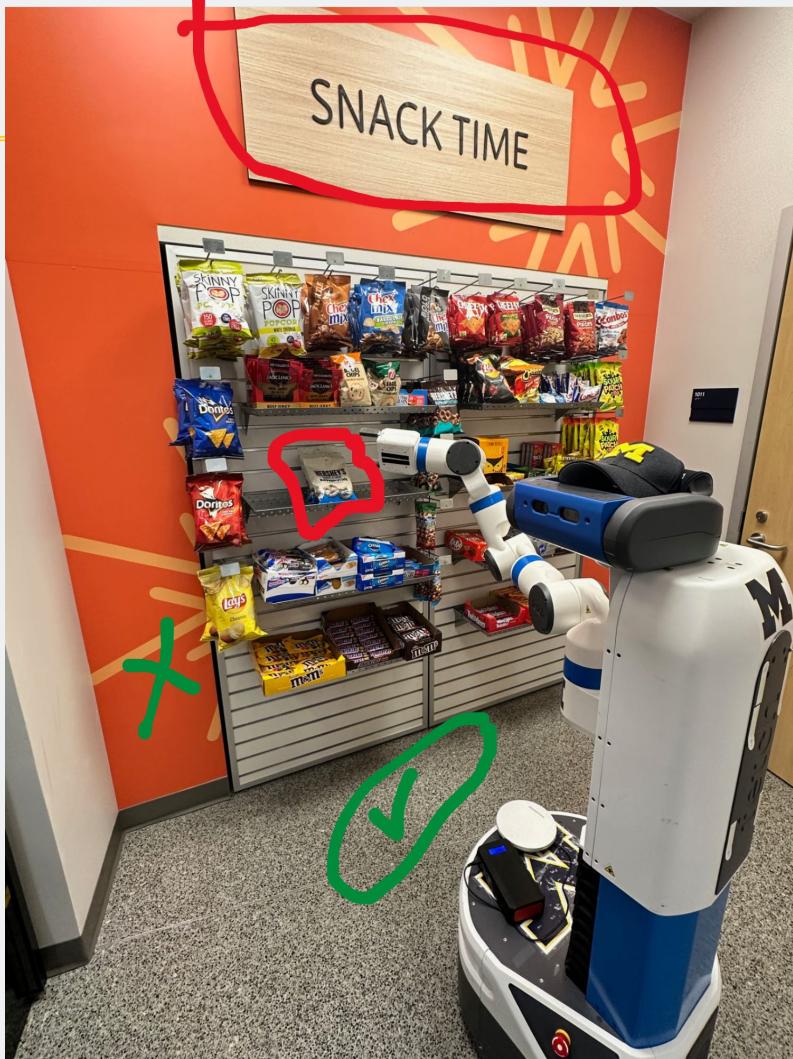
---

About waitlist

About access (Google Colab etc.)



**M** ROBOTICS

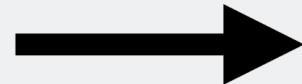


- How do you “classify” which part is traversable for the robot, which part is not?
- How do you tell which one is the correct snack?

# Image Classification

## —A **Core** Computer Vision/Robot Perception Task

**Input:** image



**Output:** assign image to one of a fixed set of categories

**Chocolate Pretzels**

Granola Bar

Potato Chips

Water Bottle

Popcorn

# “Semantic Gap”

Input: image

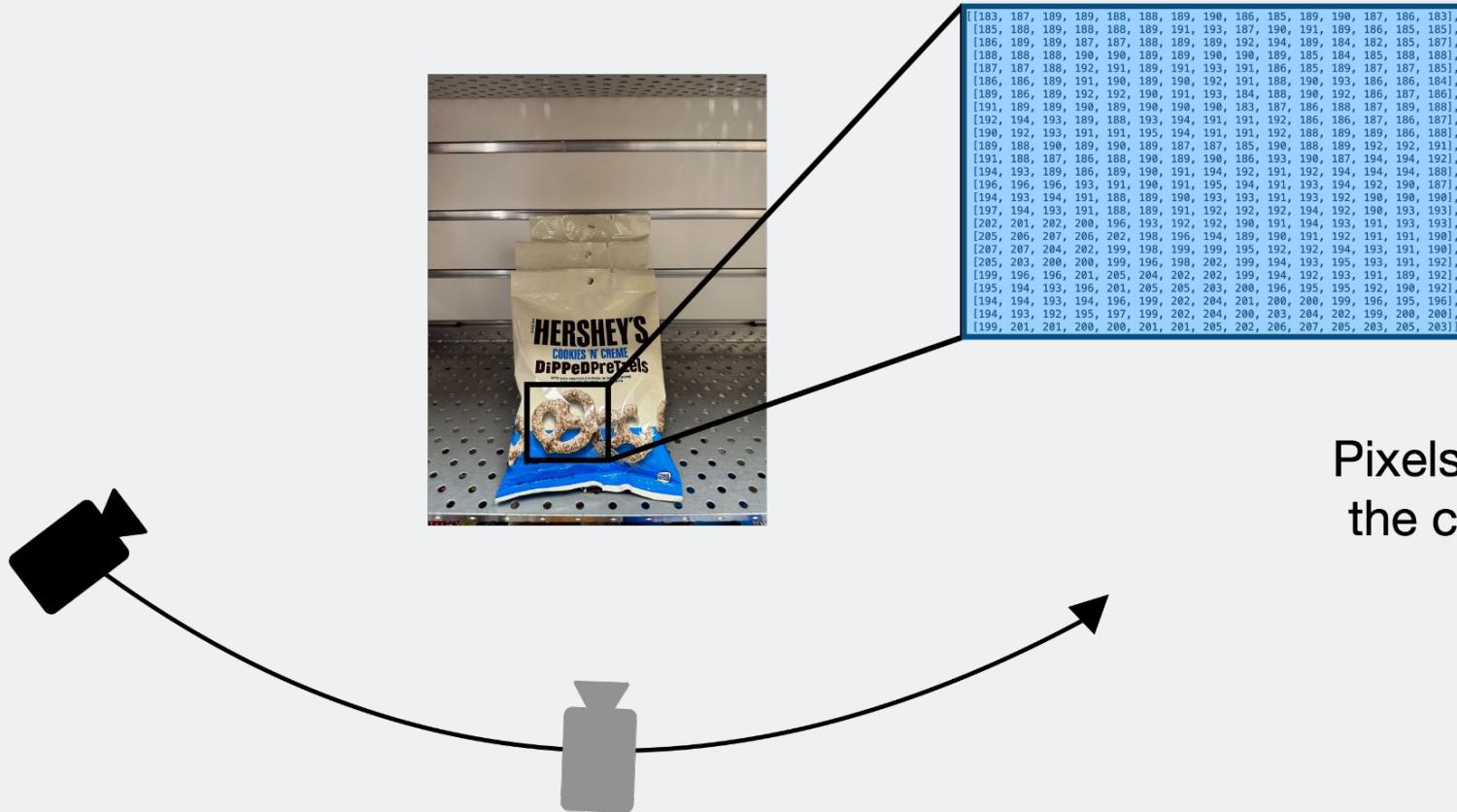


```
[[183, 187, 189, 189, 188, 188, 189, 190, 186, 185, 189, 190, 187, 186, 183],  
 [185, 188, 189, 188, 188, 189, 191, 193, 187, 190, 191, 189, 186, 185, 185],  
 [186, 189, 189, 187, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 194, 189, 184, 182, 185, 187],  
 [188, 188, 188, 190, 190, 189, 189, 190, 190, 190, 189, 185, 184, 185, 188, 188],  
 [187, 187, 188, 192, 191, 189, 191, 193, 191, 186, 185, 189, 187, 187, 185],  
 [186, 186, 189, 191, 190, 189, 190, 192, 191, 188, 190, 193, 186, 186, 184],  
 [189, 186, 189, 192, 192, 190, 191, 193, 184, 188, 190, 192, 186, 187, 186],  
 [191, 189, 189, 190, 189, 190, 190, 190, 183, 187, 186, 188, 187, 189, 188],  
 [192, 194, 193, 189, 188, 193, 194, 191, 191, 192, 186, 186, 187, 186, 187],  
 [190, 192, 193, 191, 191, 195, 194, 191, 191, 192, 188, 189, 189, 186, 188],  
 [189, 188, 190, 189, 190, 189, 187, 187, 185, 190, 188, 189, 192, 192, 191],  
 [191, 188, 187, 186, 188, 190, 189, 190, 186, 193, 190, 187, 194, 194, 192],  
 [194, 193, 189, 186, 189, 190, 191, 194, 192, 191, 192, 194, 194, 194, 188],  
 [196, 196, 196, 193, 191, 190, 191, 195, 194, 191, 193, 194, 192, 190, 187],  
 [194, 193, 194, 191, 188, 189, 190, 193, 193, 191, 193, 192, 190, 190, 190],  
 [197, 194, 193, 191, 188, 189, 191, 192, 192, 192, 194, 192, 190, 193, 193],  
 [202, 201, 202, 200, 196, 193, 192, 192, 190, 191, 194, 193, 191, 193, 193],  
 [205, 206, 207, 206, 202, 198, 196, 194, 189, 190, 191, 192, 191, 191, 190],  
 [207, 207, 204, 202, 199, 198, 199, 199, 195, 192, 192, 194, 193, 191, 190],  
 [205, 203, 200, 200, 199, 196, 198, 202, 199, 194, 193, 195, 193, 191, 192],  
 [199, 196, 196, 201, 205, 204, 202, 202, 199, 194, 192, 193, 191, 189, 192],  
 [195, 194, 193, 196, 201, 205, 205, 203, 200, 196, 195, 195, 192, 190, 192],  
 [194, 194, 193, 194, 196, 199, 202, 204, 201, 200, 200, 199, 196, 195, 196],  
 [194, 193, 192, 195, 197, 199, 202, 204, 200, 203, 204, 202, 199, 200, 200],  
 [199, 201, 201, 200, 200, 201, 201, 205, 202, 206, 207, 205, 203, 205, 203]]
```

What the computer sees

An image is just a grid of numbers between [0, 255]

# Challenges—Viewpoint Variation



# Challenges—Intraclass variation

---



# Challenges—Fine Grained Categories

e.g.,

Milk  
Chocolate



White  
Chocolate



Cookies N'  
Creme



Peanut Butter



Ambiguous  
Category



# Challenges— Background Clutter

---



# Challenges—Image Resolution

---

iPhone 14 Camera



4032x3024

ASUS RGB-D Camera



640x480

# Challenges—Illumination Changes

---



**Want our robot's perception system  
to be reliable in all conditions**

# Challenges—Subject Deformation

---



# Challenges—Occlusion

---

Scene Clutter



Robot Actuator



Transparency



# Challenges—Semantic Relationship

---

Reflections



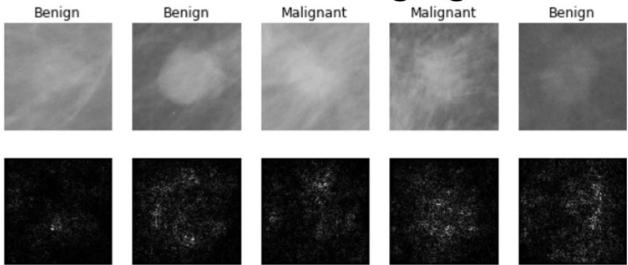
Contact  
Relationships



Robots have to act on the state they perceive

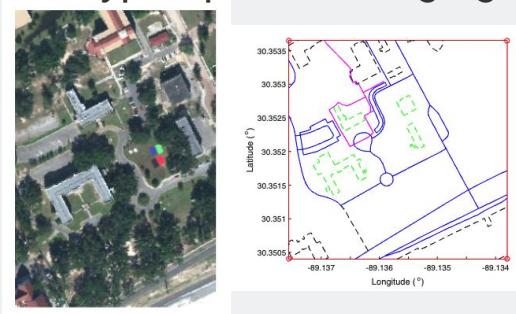
# Application of Image Classification

## Medical Imaging

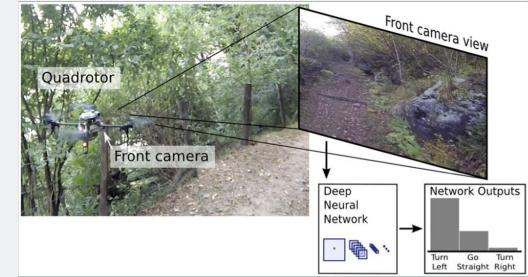


Lévy et al., "Breast Mass Classification from Mammograms using Deep Convolutional Neural Networks", arXiv:1612.00542, 2016

## Hyperspectral Imaging



## Trail Direction Classification



Giusti et al., "A Machine Learning Approach to Visual Perception of Forest Trails for Mobile Robots", IEEE RAL, 2016

## Galaxy Classification



Dieleman et al., "Rotation-invariant convolutional neural networks for galaxy morphology prediction", 2015

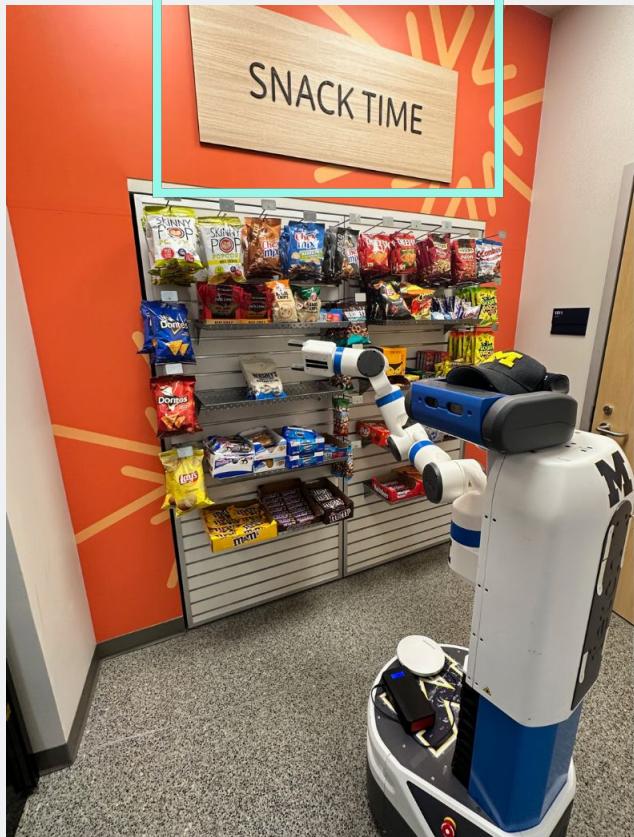
From left to right: public domain by NASA, usage permitted by  
ESA/Hubble, public domain by NASA, and public domain

## Tomato Ripeness Classification

Name	Color	Storage Time (Days)	Sample
LV1	Breakers	21 ~ 28	
LV2	Turning	15 ~ 20	
LV3	Pink	7 ~ 14	
LV4	Light red	5 ~ 6	
LV5	Red	2 ~ 4	

Zhang et al., "Deep Learning Based Improved Classification System for Designing Tomato Harvesting Robot", IEEE Access, 2016

# Image Classification – Building Block for Other Tasks



**Example:** Object Detection

Wall

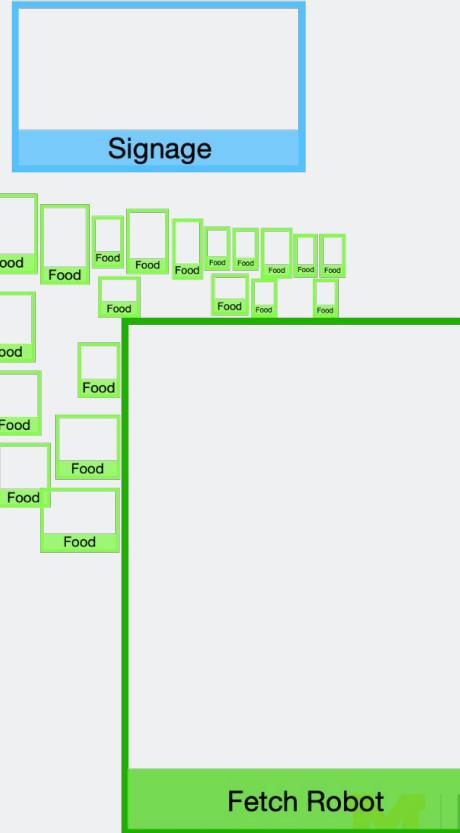
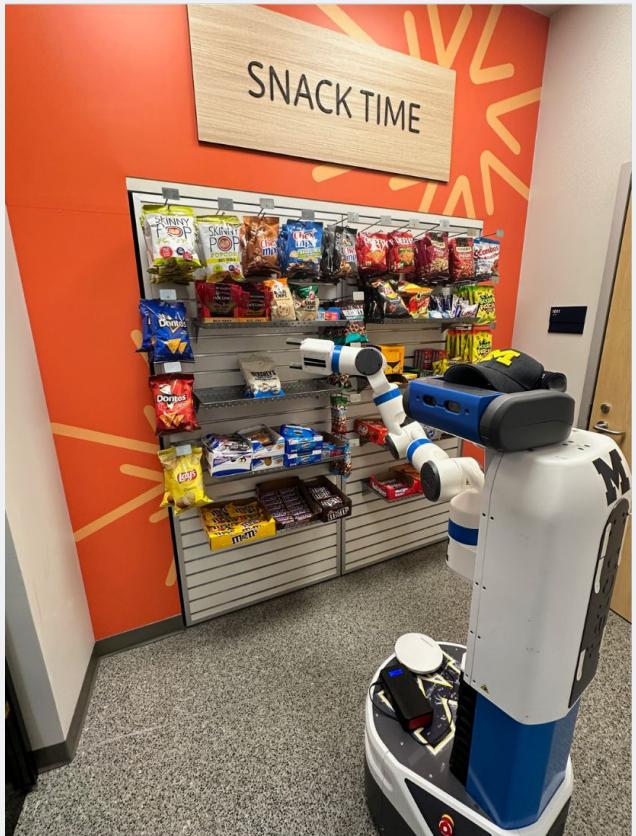
Floor

Signage

Fetch Robot

Snacks

# Image Classification – Building Block for Other Tasks



# An Image Classifier

---

```
def classify_image(image):  
    # Some magic here?  
    return class_label
```

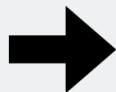
Unlike well defined programming (e.g. sorting a list)

No obvious way to hard-code the algorithm  
for recognizing each class

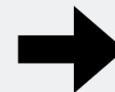
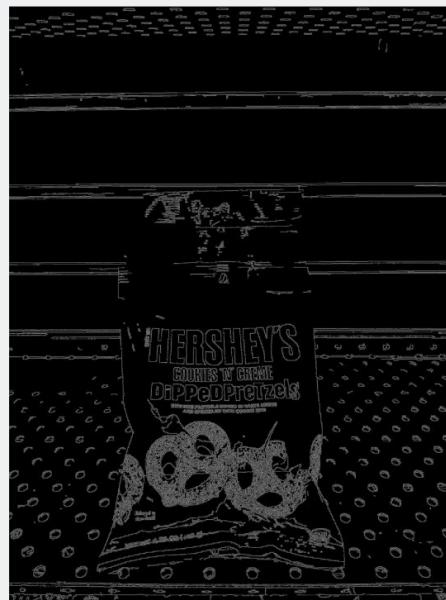
# One “classical” Computer Vision approach

(example)

**Input:** image



**Detect:** Edges



**Detect:** Corners



???

# Deep Learning – A Data-Driven Approach

---

1. Collect a dataset of images + labels
2. Use ML/DL to train a classifier
3. Evaluate the classifier on new images

```
def train(images, labels):  
    # Machine learning!  
    return model
```

```
def predict(model, test_images):  
    # Use model to predict labels  
    return test_labels
```

# Some examples of Deep Learning Datasets

---



**MNIST**

**Handwritten digits**

**10 classes:** Digits 0 to 9

**28x28** grayscale images

**50k** training images

**10k** test images

Due to relatively small size,  
results on MNIST often do not  
hold on more complex datasets

# Some examples of Deep Learning Datasets

## CIFAR10

airplane



automobile



bird



cat



deer



dog



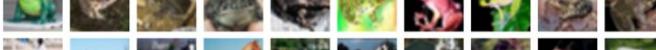
frog



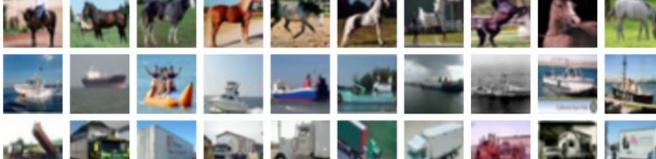
horse



ship



truck



10 classes

32x32 RGB images

50k training images (5k per class)

10k test images (1k per class)

Alex Krizhevsky, "Learning Multiple Layers of Features from Tiny Images", Technical Report, 2009.

# Some examples of Deep Learning Datasets



# CIFAR100

# 100 classes

## 32x32 RGB images

**50k training images (500 per class)**

## 10k test images (100 per class)

**20 superclasses** with 5 classes each:

Aquatic mammals: beaver, dolphin, otter, seal, whale

# Some examples of Deep Learning Datasets

## ImageNet



1000 classes

**~1.3M** training images (~1.3K per class)  
**50k** validation images (50 per class)  
**100K** test images (100 per class)

Images have variable size, but often resized to **256x256** for training

Deng et al., "ImageNet: A Large-Scale Hierarchical Image Database", CVPR, 2009.

Russakovsky et al., "ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge", IJCV, 2015.

# Some examples of Deep Learning Datasets

## MIT Places



**365 classes** of different scene types

**~8M** training images

**18.25K** val images (50 per class)

**328.5K** test images (900 per class)

Images have variable size, but often resized to **256x256** for training

Zhou et al., "Places: A 10 million Image Database for Scene Recognition", TPAMI, 2017.

# Image Classification Dataset

## Progress Robot Object Perception Samples Dataset

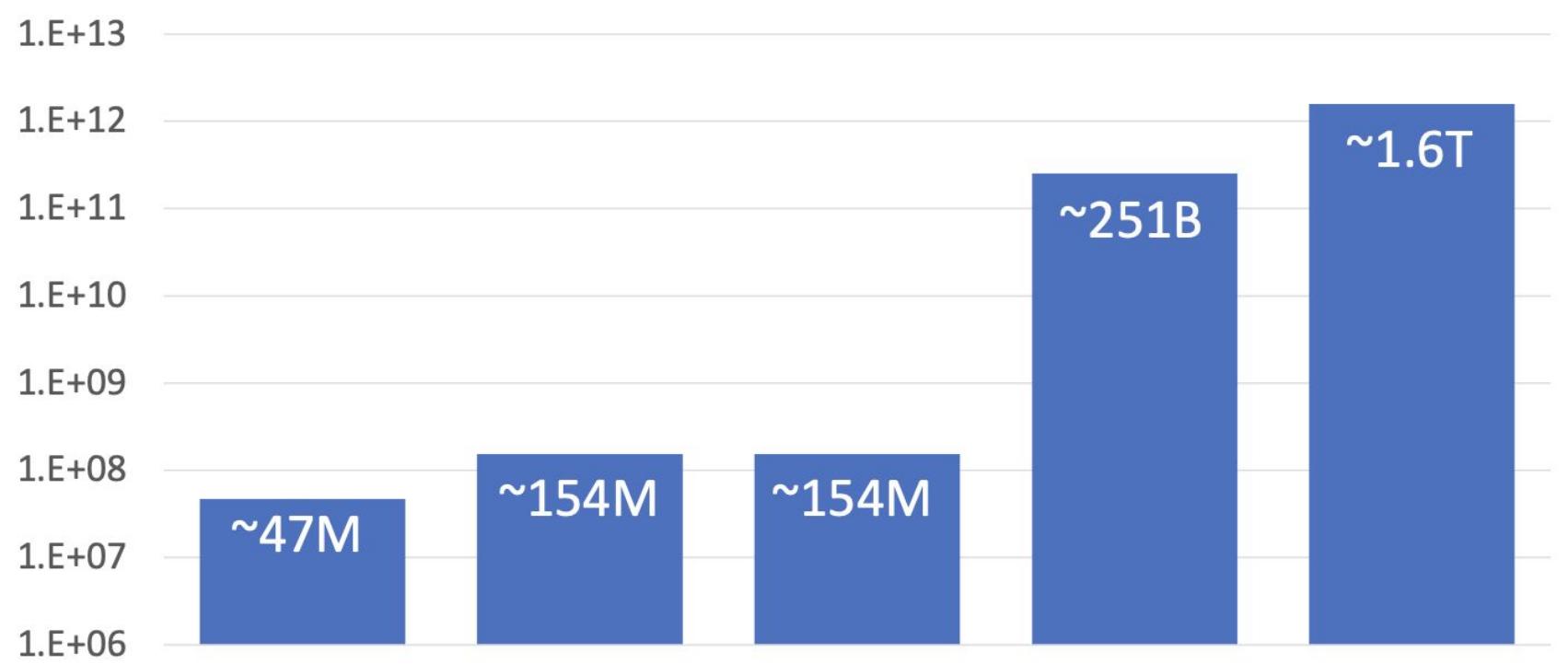


(PROPS)

**10 classes**  
**32x32 RGB images**  
**50k training images (5k per class)**  
**10k test images (1k per class)**

Chen et al., "ProgressLabeller: Visual Data Stream Annotation for Training Object-Centric 3D Perception", IROS, 2022.

# Size of Dataset - # of Training Pixels



# Our first classifier - Nearest Neighbor

---

# Aha Slides (In-class participation)

<https://ahaslides.com/DMOPW>

Q1, Q2



# Our first classifier - Nearest Neighbor

---

```
def train(images, labels):  
    # Machine learning!  
    return model
```



Memorize all data and labels

```
def predict(model, test_images):  
    # Use model to predict labels  
    return test_labels
```



Predict the label of the most similar training image

# Distance Metric to Compare Images

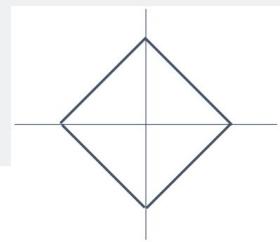
"How do you know which one is the `nearest` neighbor?"

**L1 distance:**

$$d_1(I_1, I_2) = \sum_p |I_1^p - I_2^p|$$

test image				training image				pixel-wise absolute value differences			
56	32	10	18	10	20	24	17	46	12	14	1
90	23	128	133	8	10	89	100	82	13	39	33
24	26	178	200	12	16	178	170	12	10	0	30
2	0	255	220	4	32	233	112	2	32	22	108

add  
→ 456

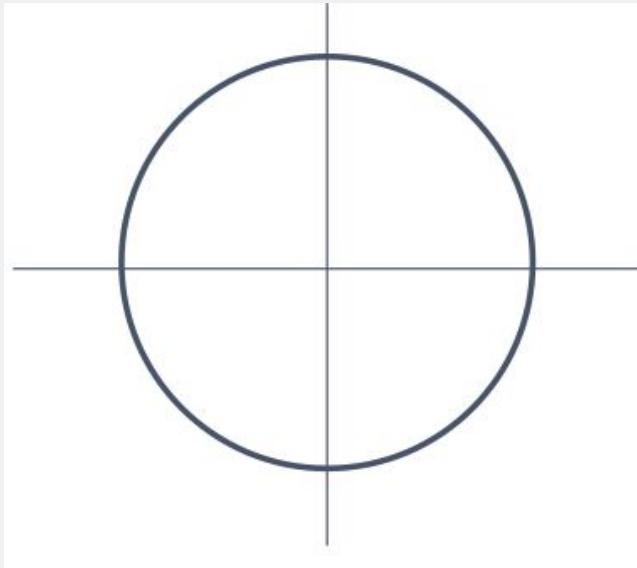


# Distance Metric to Compare Images

---

"How do you know which one is the 'nearest' neighbor?"

L2 (Euclidean) distance  $d_2(I_1, I_2) = (\sum (I_1^p - I_2^p)^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$



# Nearest Neighbor Classifier Algorithm

```
import numpy as np

class NearestNeighbor:
    def __init__(self):
        pass

    def train(self, X, y):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example. Y is 1-dimension of size N """
        # the nearest neighbor classifier simply remembers all the training data
        self.Xtr = X
        self.ytr = y

    def predict(self, X):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example we wish to predict label for """
        num_test = X.shape[0]
        # lets make sure that the output type matches the input type
        Ypred = np.zeros(num_test, dtype = self.ytr.dtype)

        # loop over all test rows
        for i in xrange(num_test):
            # find the nearest training image to the i'th test image
            distances = np.sum(np.abs(self.Xtr - X[i,:]), axis = 1)
            min_index = np.argmin(distances) # get the index with smallest distance
            Ypred[i] = self.ytr[min_index] # predict the label of the nearest example

        return Ypred
```

<https://ahaslides.com/DMOPW>



Q3

M | ROBOTICS

# Nearest Neighbor Classifier Algorithm

```
import numpy as np

class NearestNeighbor:
    def __init__(self):
        pass

    def train(self, X, y):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example. Y is 1-dimension of size N """
        # the nearest neighbor classifier simply remembers all the training data
        self.Xtr = X
        self.ytr = y

    def predict(self, X):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example we wish to predict label for """
        num_test = X.shape[0]
        # lets make sure that the output type matches the input type
        Ypred = np.zeros(num_test, dtype = self.ytr.dtype)

        # loop over all test rows
        for i in xrange(num_test):
            # find the nearest training image to the i'th test image
            # using the L1 distance (sum of absolute value differences)
            distances = np.sum(np.abs(self.Xtr - X[i,:]), axis = 1)
            min_index = np.argmin(distances) # get the index with smallest distance
            Ypred[i] = self.ytr[min_index] # predict the label of the nearest example

        return Ypred
```

Memorize training data

# Nearest Neighbor Classifier Algorithm

```
import numpy as np

class NearestNeighbor:
    def __init__(self):
        pass

    def train(self, X, y):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example. Y is 1-dimension of size N """
        # the nearest neighbor classifier simply remembers all the training data
        self.Xtr = X
        self.ytr = y

    def predict(self, X):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example we wish to predict label for """
        num_test = X.shape[0]
        # lets make sure that the output type matches the input type
        Ypred = np.zeros(num_test, dtype = self.ytr.dtype)

        # loop over all test rows
        for i in xrange(num_test):
            # find the nearest training image to the i'th test image
            # using the L1 distance (sum of absolute value differences)
            distances = np.sum(np.abs(self.Xtr - X[i,:]), axis = 1)
            min_index = np.argmin(distances) # get the index with smallest distance
            Ypred[i] = self.ytr[min_index] # predict the label of the nearest example

        return Ypred
```

For each test image:  
Find nearest training  
image  
Return label of nearest  
image

# Nearest Neighbor Classifier Algorithm

```
import numpy as np

class NearestNeighbor:
    def __init__(self):
        pass

    def train(self, X, y):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example. Y is 1-dimension of size N """
        # the nearest neighbor classifier simply remembers all the training data
        self.Xtr = X
        self.ytr = y

    def predict(self, X):
        """ X is N x D where each row is an example we wish to predict label for """
        num_test = X.shape[0]
        # lets make sure that the output type matches the input type
        Ypred = np.zeros(num_test, dtype = self.ytr.dtype)

        # loop over all test rows
        for i in xrange(num_test):
            # find the nearest training image to the i'th test image
            # using the L1 distance (sum of absolute value differences)
            distances = np.sum(np.abs(self.Xtr - X[i,:]), axis = 1)
            min_index = np.argmin(distances) # get the index with smallest distance
            Ypred[i] = self.ytr[min_index] # predict the label of the nearest example

        return Ypred
```

Q: With N examples how fast is training?

A: O(1)

Q: With N examples how fast is testing?

A: O(N)

This is a problem: we can train slow offline but need fast testing!

# Further reading: faster/more efficient nearest neighbors

---

Example:

<https://github.com/facebookresearch/faiss>

# More distance metrics

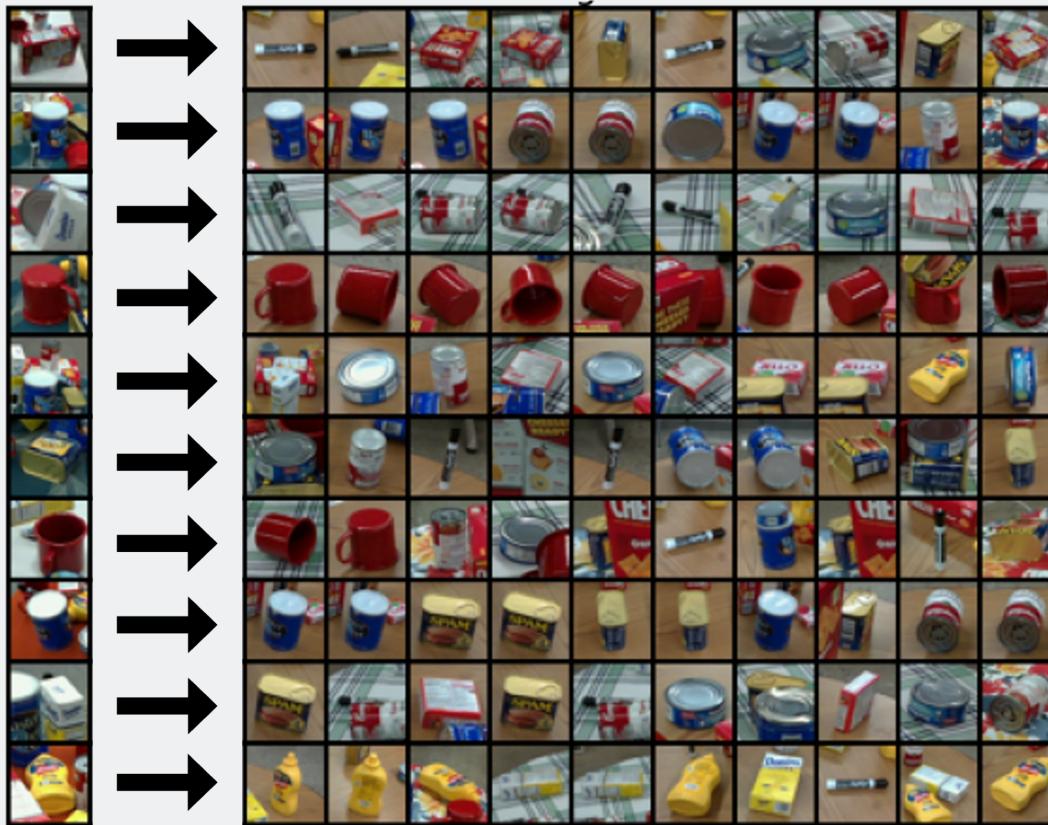
---

- Similarity/dissimilarity metrics

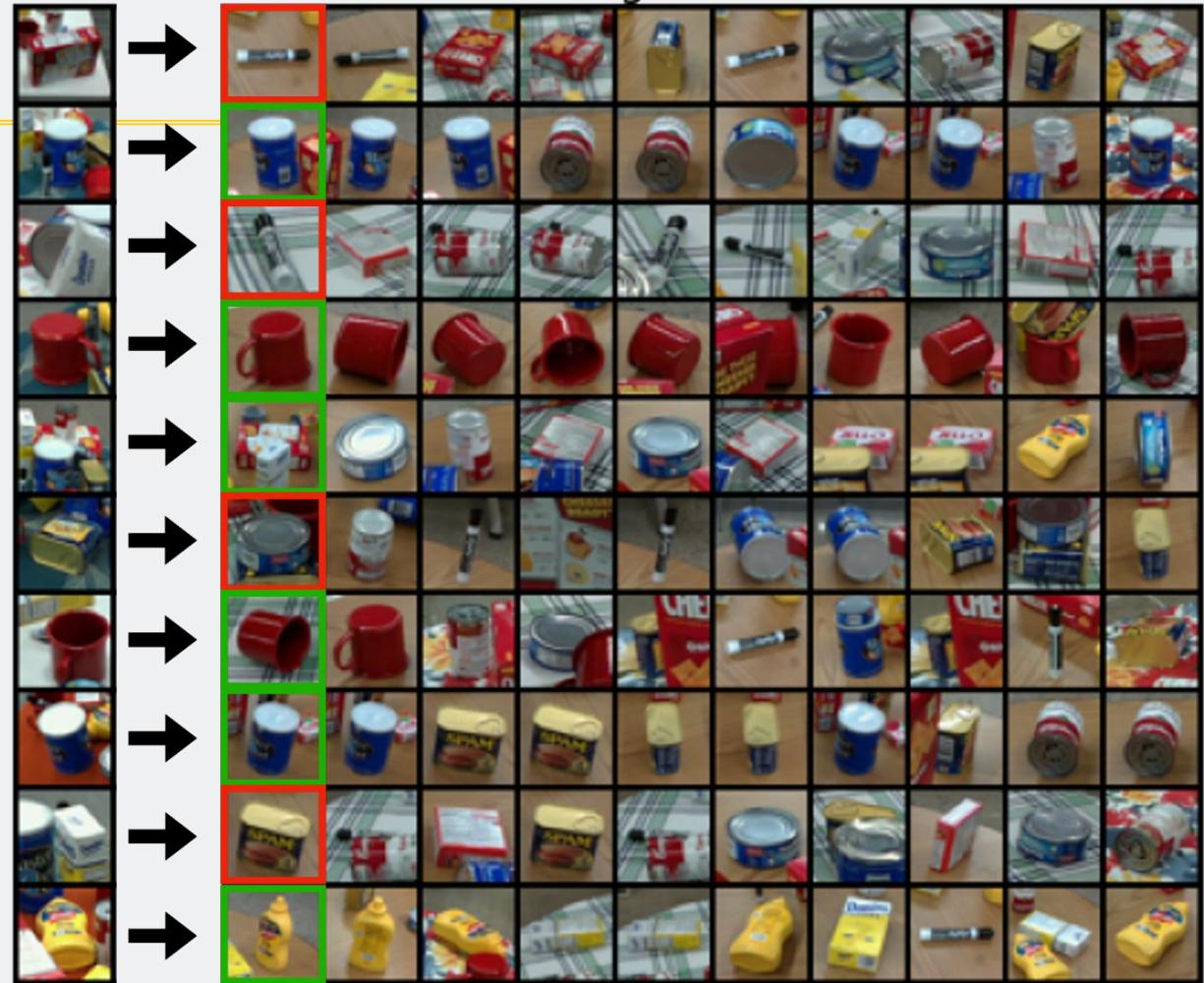
- Euclidean distance:  $d_E = \sqrt{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)^T (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)}$
- City block distance:  $d_C = \sum_{i=1}^d |x_{1i} - x_{2i}|$
- Mahalanobis distance:  $(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)$
- Geodesic distance
- Cosine angle similarity:  $\cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{x}_1^T \mathbf{x}_2}{|\mathbf{x}_1|_2^2 |\mathbf{x}_2|_2^2}$
- and many more...

# What does this look like in PROPS dataset?

---



PROPS dataset is  
instance-level



CIFAR10 dataset is category-level



# In-Class Activity

---

20250113\_knn.ipynb

# K-Nearest Neighbors—Web Demo

(for fun!)

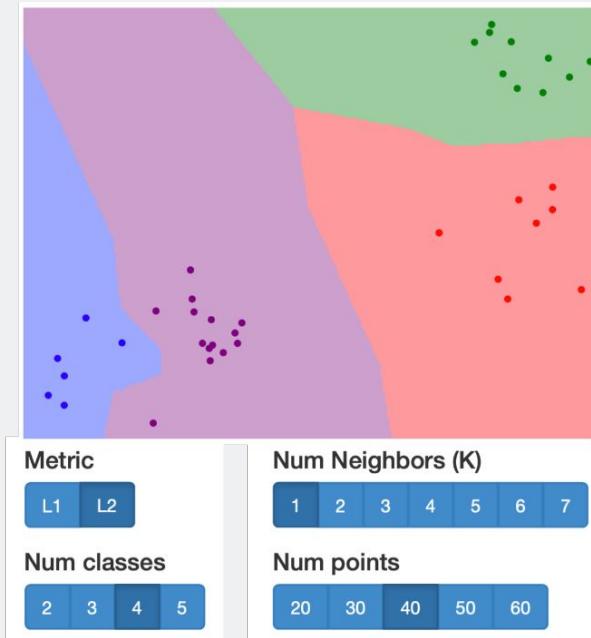
Interactively move points around  
and see decision boundaries change

Observe results with L1 vs L2 metrics

Observe results with changing number  
of training points and value of  $K$



<http://vision.stanford.edu/teaching/cs231n-demos/knn/>



# Hyperparameters

---

What is the best value of  $K$  to use?

What is the best **distance metric** to use?

# Setting Hyperparameters

---

What is the best value of  $K$  to use?

What is the best **distance metric** to use?

These are examples of hyperparameters: choices about our learning algorithm that we don't learn from the training data. Instead, we can set them at the start of the learning process.

**Very problem-dependent** - In general may need to try them all and observe what works best for our data

# Setting Hyperparameters

---

**Idea #1:** Choose hyperparameters that work best on the data

**BAD:**  $K = 1$  always works perfectly on training data

Your Dataset

# Setting Hyperparameters

---

**Idea #2:** Split data into **train** and **test**, choose hyperparameters that work best on test data

**BAD:** No idea how algorithm will perform on new data

train

test

# Setting Hyperparameters

---

**Idea #3:** Split data into **train**, **val**, and **test**; choose hyperparameters on val and evaluate on test

Better!

train

validation

test

# Setting Hyperparameters

Your Dataset

Idea #4: **Cross-Validation** Split data into **folds**, try each fold as validation and average the results

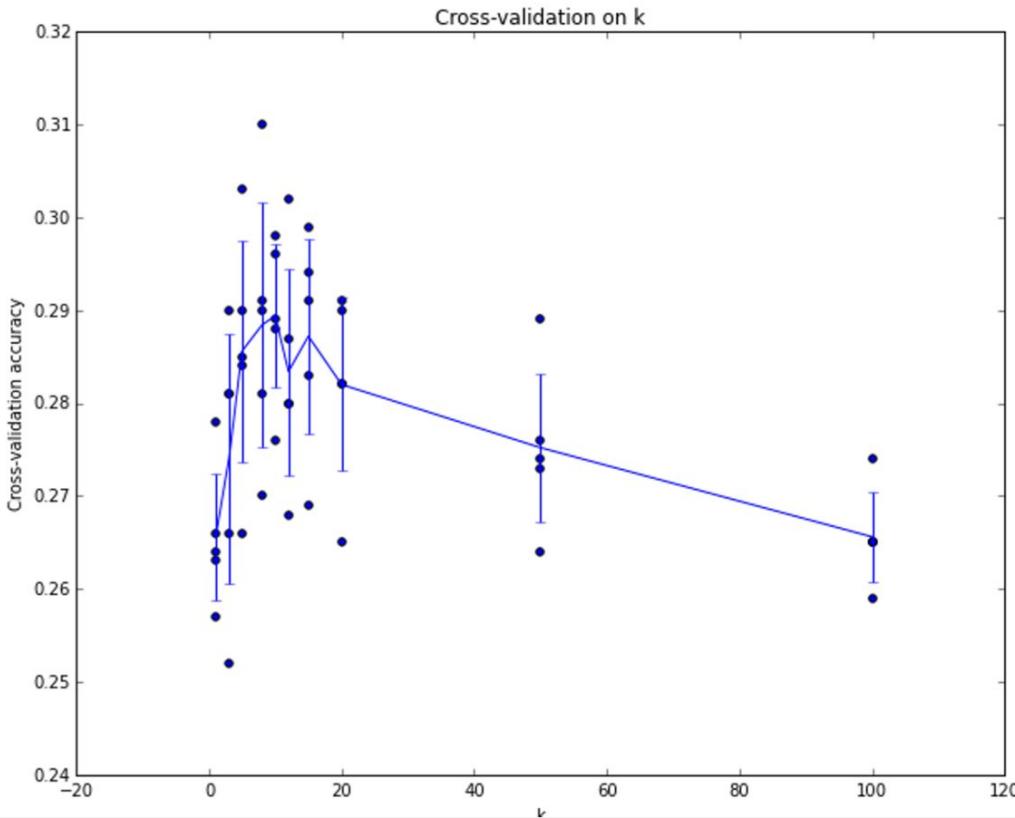
fold 1	fold 2	fold 3	fold 4	fold 5	test
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	------

fold 1	fold 2	fold 3	fold 4	fold 5	test
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	------

fold 1	fold 2	fold 3	fold 4	fold 5	test
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	------

Useful for small datasets, but (unfortunately) not used too frequently in deep learning

# Setting Hyperparameters - KNN example



Example of 5-fold cross-validation for the value of  $k$ .

Each point: single outcome.

The line goes through the mean, bars indicated standard deviation

(Seems that  $k \sim 7$  works best for this data)

# KNN - Universal Approximation

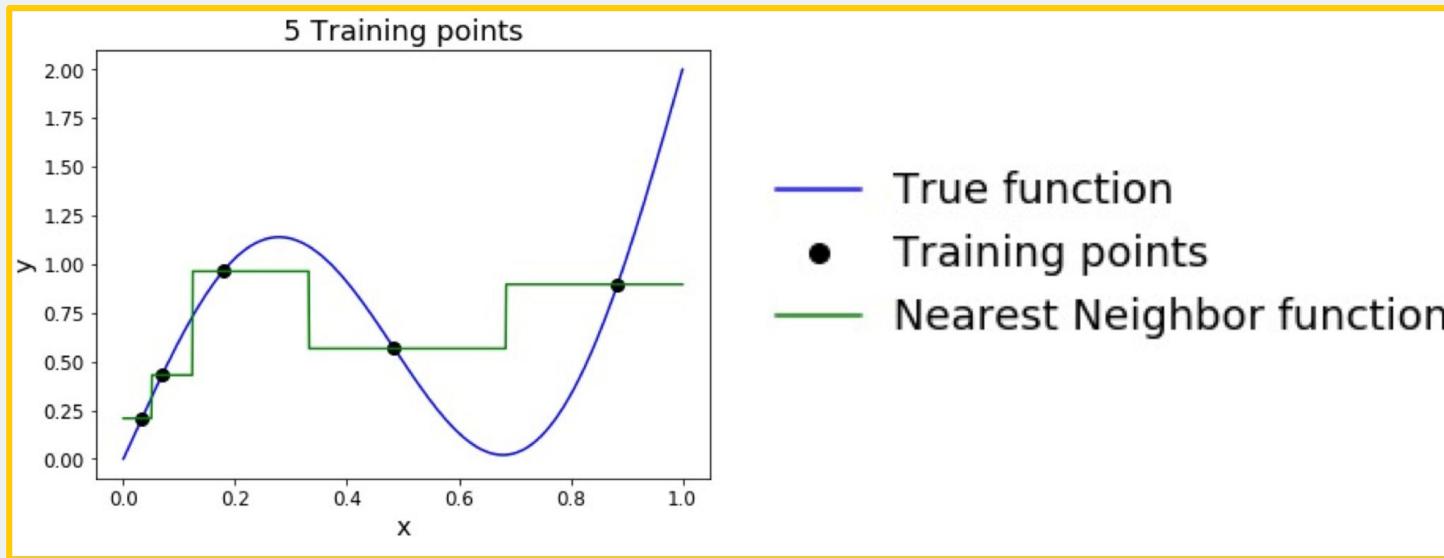
---

As the number of training samples goes to infinity, nearest neighbor can represent any<sup>(\*)</sup> function!

(\*) Subject to many technical conditions. Only continuous functions on a compact domain; need to make assumptions about spacing of training points; etc.

# KNN - Universal Approximation

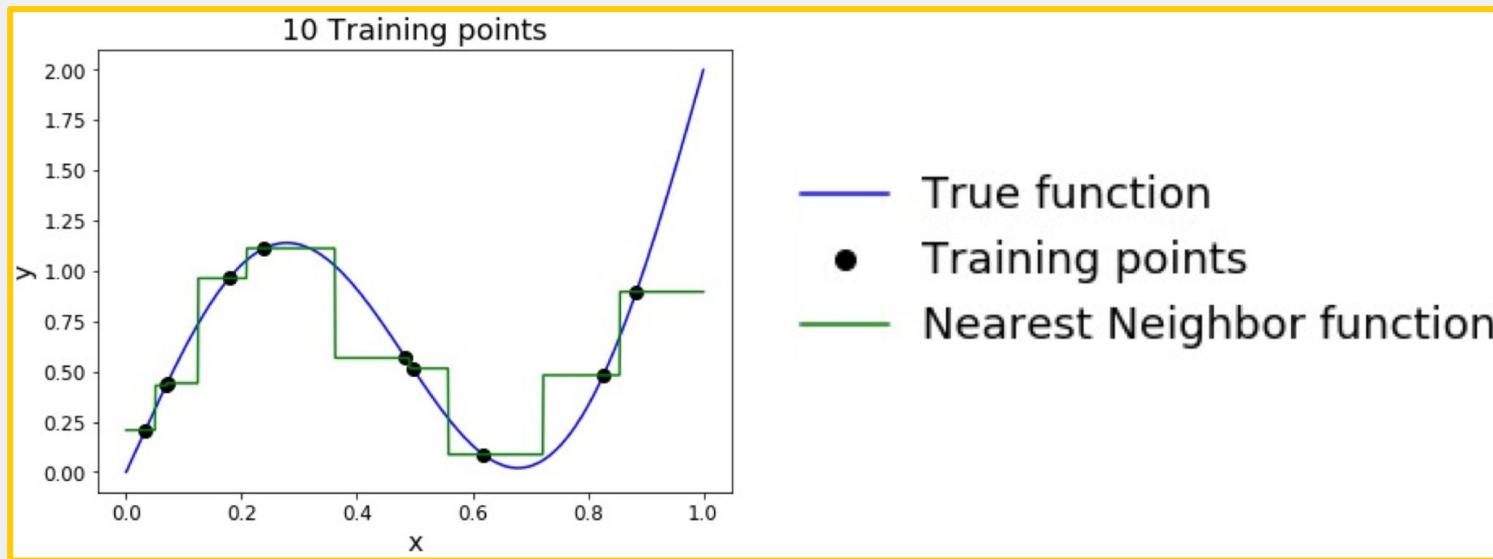
As the number of training samples goes to infinity, nearest neighbor can represent any<sup>(\*)</sup> function!



(\*) Subject to many technical conditions. Only continuous functions on a compact domain; need to make assumptions about spacing of training points; etc.

# KNN - Universal Approximation

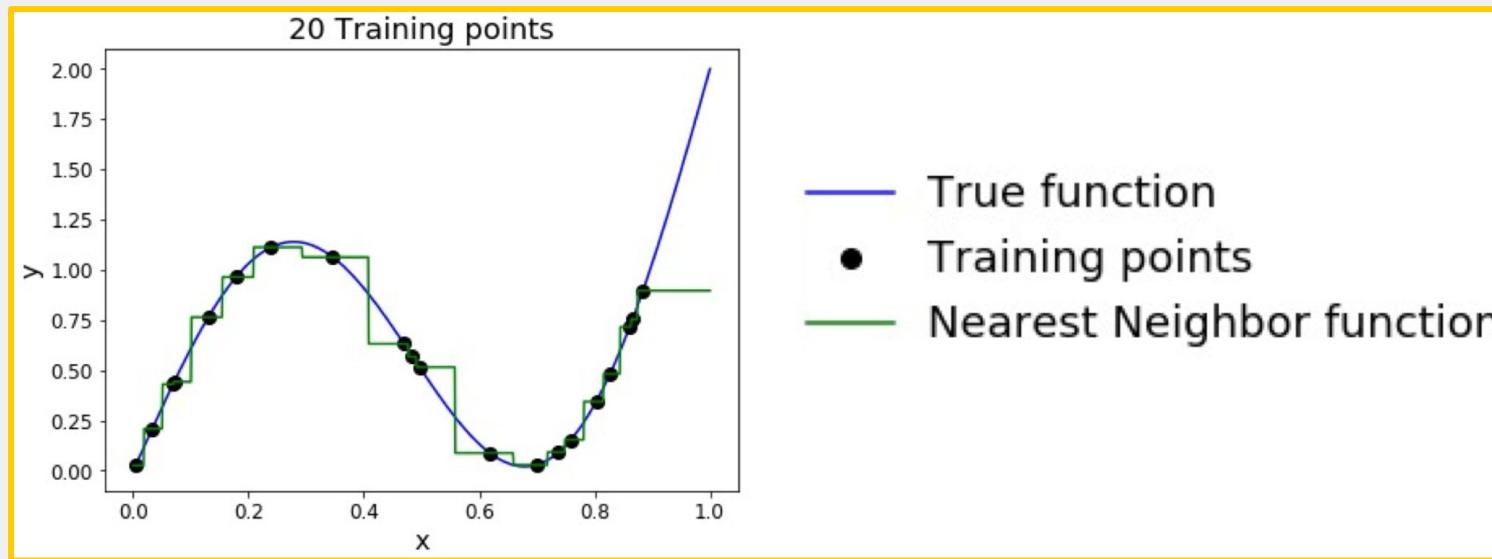
As the number of training samples goes to infinity, nearest neighbor can represent any<sup>(\*)</sup> function!



(\*) Subject to many technical conditions. Only continuous functions on a compact domain; need to make assumptions about spacing of training points; etc.

# KNN - Universal Approximation

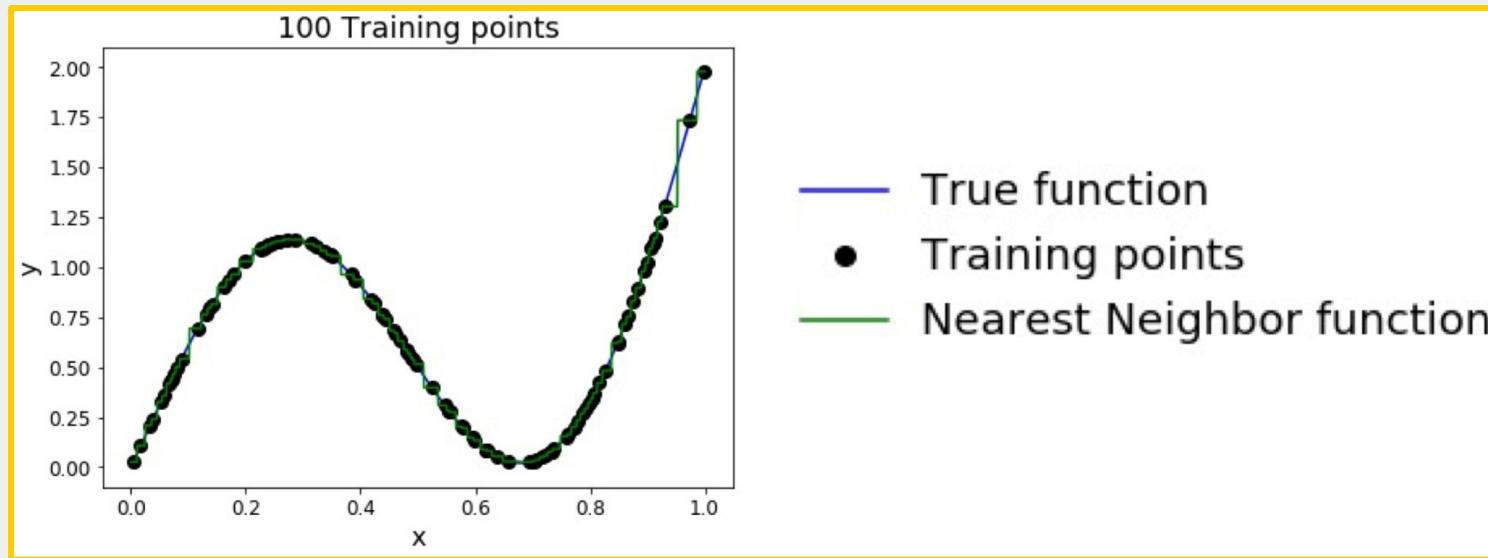
As the number of training samples goes to infinity, nearest neighbor can represent any<sup>(\*)</sup> function!



(\*) Subject to many technical conditions. Only continuous functions on a compact domain; need to make assumptions about spacing of training points; etc.

# KNN - Universal Approximation

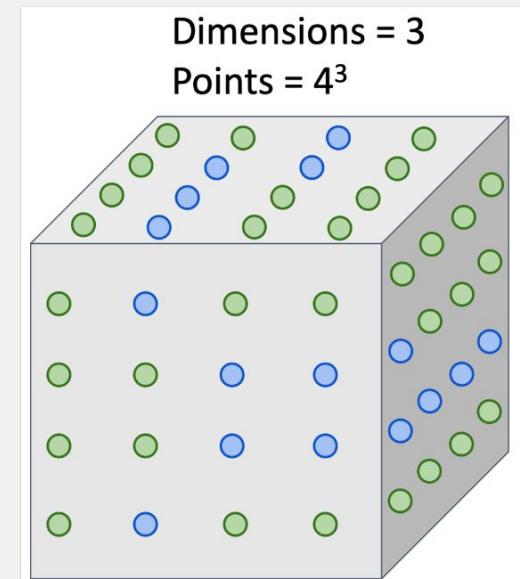
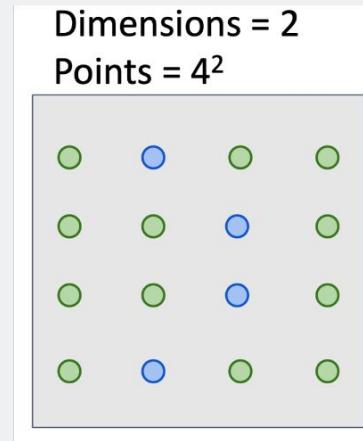
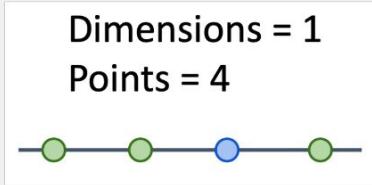
As the number of training samples goes to infinity, nearest neighbor can represent any<sup>(\*)</sup> function!



(\*) Subject to many technical conditions. Only continuous functions on a compact domain; need to make assumptions about spacing of training points; etc.

# Problem - Curse of Dimensionality

**Curse of dimensionality:** For uniform coverage of space, number of training points needed grows exponentially with dimension



# Problem - Curse of Dimensionality

---

**Curse of dimensionality:** For uniform coverage of space, number of training points needed grows exponentially with dimension

Number of possible  
32x32 binary images

$$2^{32 \times 32} \approx 10^{308}$$

# Notes

---

- K-Nearest Neighbors **Seldom** Used on Raw Pixels
- **Very slow** at test time
- Distance metrics on pixels are **not informative**

(Example)



All 3 images have same L2 distance to the original

# K-Nearest Neighbors with ConvNet Features Works Well



Devlin et al., "Exploring Nearest Neighbor Approaches for Image Captioning", 2015.

# Summary

---

In **image classification** we start with a training set of images and labels, and must predict labels for a test set

Image classification is challenging due to the **semantic gap**:

we need invariance to occlusion, deformation, lighting, sensor variation, etc.

Image classification is a **building block** for other vision tasks

The **K-Nearest Neighbors** classifier predicts labels from nearest training samples

Distance metric and  $K$  are **hyperparameters**

Choose hyper parameters using the **validation set**;  
only run on the test set once at the very end!

# Aha Slides (In-class participation)

<https://ahaslides.com/DMOPW>



Q4

# Due dates

---

**Canvas Assignment: 20250113 KNN Quiz**

**Scored - individual** (as part of in-class activity points)

**Due Jan. 15, 2025**

**P0**

**5 submissions per day - Start today!!!**

**Due Jan. 19, 2025**